

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05
PA-01 USIE-00 SSO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12
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O 021025Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6639

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FOR EB/OF; PASS ELECTRONICALLY AGRICULTURE FOR HATHAWAY
AND NOVOTNY FROM SAYLOR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD EAGR OCON
SUBJECT: PROPOSED STATEMENT ON US COMMITMENT TO FOOD
AID CONVENTION AND SPECIAL PROVISION FOR EMERGENCY
NEEDS

1. THIS IS THE PROPOSED TEXT OF US STATEMENT AND PRESS
RELEASE ON THE FOOD AID CONVENTION. SAYLOR WILL CALL
HATHAWAY ON THURSDAY, MARCH 2 FOR CLEARANCE OF THIS
TEXT, AS PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED. THE TEXT WILL BE READ
IN GENEVA AND RELEASED IN WASHINGTON ON FRIDAY, MARCH
3. TEXT AS FOLLOWS:

2. BEGIN TEXT: MR. CHAIRMAN: LAST YEAR AT THE MANILA
MEETING OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL THE UNITED STATES
STATED THAT IT WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO MAINTAIN ITS
TOTAL LEVEL OF FOOD AID AT A FAIR SHARE OF THE RECOM-
MENDED 10 MILLION TON TARGET EVEN IN YEARS OF TIGHT
SUPPLY. TODAY, AS WE UNDERTAKE THE NEGOTIATION OF A
NEW FOOD AID CONVENTION UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL WHEAT
AGREEMENT, WE HAVE BEFORE US A PROPOSAL TO ADOPT THAT
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FIGURE AS THE MINIMUM ANNUAL PROGRAM FOR FOOD AID TO
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THIS WOULD MORE THAN DOUBLE FOOD
AID COMMITMENTS UNDER THE EXISTING CONVENTION AND WOULD
BE A MAJOR STRIDE FORWARD IN THE INTERNATIONAL EFFORT
TO ERADICATE HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION.

IT IS MY PRIVILEGE TO ANNOUNCE THAT, AS ITS CONTRIBUTION

TO A COLLECTIVE EFFORT, THE UNITED STATES WILL MORE THAN DOUBLE ITS CURRENT COMMITMENT UNDER THE FOOD AID CONVENTION. THE UNITED STATES PLEDGES 4.47 MILLION METRIC TONS OF GRAINS AS ITS MINIMUM ANNUAL COMMITMENT TO THE FOOD AID CONVENTION. THIS QUANTITY REPRESENTS A U.S. SHARE OF THE 10 MILLION TON TARGET WHICH IS EQUIVALENT TO OUR 44.7 SHARE OF THE CURRENT CONVENTION. THE U.S. COMMITMENT WILL THUS INCREASE FROM 1.89 TO 4.47 MILLION METRIC TONS. IF ALL CURRENT DONORS INCREASE THEIR PLEDGES ACCORDINGLY, THE 10 MILLION TON GOAL WILL BE ACHIEVED.

I STRESS THAT THIS IS THE MINIMUM LEVEL OF US FOOD AID INTENTIONS, TO BE MADE AVAILABLE EVEN IN YEARS OF PRODUCTION SHORTFALL. IN YEARS OF NORMAL OR HIGH PRODUCTION, AS AT PRESENT, US FOOD AID CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE SUBSTANTIALLY ABOVE THAT LEVEL.

THE FIGHT AGAINST WORLD HUNGER THROUGH FOOD AID PROGRAMS CANNOT, HOWEVER, BE LEFT TO THE SMALL NUMBER OF FOOD EXPORTING AND TRADITIONAL DONOR COUNTRIES. THE DISTRIBUTION OF ECONOMIC WEALTH IN THE WORLD HAS SHIFTED DRAMATICALLY SINCE 1971, AND I HOPE THAT ALL COUNTRIES NOT NOW MEMBERS OF THE CONVENTION BUT IN A POSITION TO UNDERTAKE ITS OBLIGATIONS WILL JOIN OUR EFFORT.

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A NEW INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS HAS EMERGED IN RECENT YEARS THAT FOOD EMERGENCIES CAN OCCUR IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH CALL FOR SPECIAL EFFORTS FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE. IN RECOGNITION OF THESE EXTREME OCCURRENCES, WE WISH TO MAKE A NEW PROPOSAL.

THE UNITED STATES PROPOSES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A "SPECIAL PROVISION FOR EMERGENCY NEEDS" UNDER THE FOOD AID CONVENTION. THIS PROVISION WOULD PROVIDE FOR A SPECIAL INCREASE IN FOOD ASSISTANCE BY MEMBER COUNTRIES WHENEVER NEEDS FOR FOOD AID INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY DUE TO FOOD GRAIN PRODUCTION SHORTFALLS IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN SERIOUS ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. IT WOULD CALL FOR MEMBER COUNTRIES TO MEET DURING SUCH EMERGENCY CONDITIONS TO CONSIDER JOINTLY INCREASING FOOD AID BY UP TO AN AGREED PERCENTAGE OF EACH COUNTRY'S MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION UNDER THE CONVENTION. THE UNITED STATES RECOMMENDS A PERCENTAGE INCREASE UP TO 20 . IF WE MEET OUR GOAL OF A MINIMUM 10 MILLION TONS OF GRAINS, THIS WILL PROVIDE UP TO AN ADDITIONAL 2 MILLION TONS OF AID DURING SPECIAL EMERGENCIES. WE WILL BE PRESENTING THE PROPOSED TEXT OF A NEW ARTICLE FOR THE CONVENTION

WITH FURTHER DETAILS. END TEXT. SORENSON

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Message Attributes

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